Gas leakage incidents

1706. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gas leakage incidents in the country after the Bhopal incident, till 1st October, 1985;

(b) whether any study has been made to see which particular industry would emit or be a source of leakage of lethal gases;

(c) whether it is a fact that major culprits amongst such offending factories include manufacturers of pesticides, plastics, man-made fibres, dyes and even medicines;

(d) with a view to avoid any more Bhopal type of gas tragedy in the future, whether Government have laid down any guidelines to ensure that these factories equip themselves with safety equipment; and

(e) whether Government propose to bring forward any legislation in this regard immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) The information that is available is given in the enclosed statement (*See below*)

(b) and (c) The State Governments have been advised to set up Task Forces/ Committees to identify hazardous industries and recommend such measures as may be necessary for improving the safety measures in those units. Central Government had earlier identified twenty six dangerous manufacturing processes and State Governments have been advised to incorporate the same in the State Factory Rules. These include processes connected with manufacture of pesticides, chemicals, benzene and substances containing benzene, carcenogenic dye inter-mediates and rayon by viscose process.

(d) All the State Governments employers and workers organisations have been asked to adopt a safety and Health Accident Reduction Action Plan, the details of which have also been sent to them. This action plan includes provision of appropriate safety equipments.

(e) Government is considering appropriate amendments to the Factories Act, 1948, so as to strengthen the provisions relating to safety and health in that Act.

Statement

HARYANA

Two cases of gas leakages have been reported which affected the health of 13 people. However, no case of death has been reported.

PUNJAB.

One case of gas leakage has been reported. No case of death or injury has been reported.

MAHARASHTRA

Four cases of gas leakages have been reported, on account of which one person died and 170 persons were affected. The affected persons were taken to Hospital and discharged after treatment.

KERALA

There was a leakage of toxic liquid which affected fifty three children in Eloor Industrial Belt on 13-9-1985 in Cochin.